

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 16 - 31 remain in the application. All of the claims were finally rejected under Section 102 based on U.S. 7,353,280 (Chiles). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The applicant thanks the Examiner for providing further support with respect to the outstanding rejections. Reconsideration is now requested in view of the above amendments which more fully distinguish over the prior art. That is, the independent claims 14 and 28 are amended to define subject matter not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. Specifically, claim 14, for example, now recites

*overwriting a unique address of the first network element with an IP address obtained from the external device ...*

Further, also in accord with claim 14, if a message header having an expanded packet-oriented protocol is detected, in addition to establishing a temporarily transparent connection between the first network element and the external device,

*the IP address obtained from the external device and assigned to the first network element is used without being converted by the network node device to the unique address in the packet-oriented network.*

Similar changes are presented in independent claim 28.

Conclusion

The claims are allowable based on the distinctions now presented. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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